

Biddulph Urban District
E22 SEP 45
C.R. 29

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF —

Medical Officer of Health
for 1944

Prepared by

JOHN FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B.

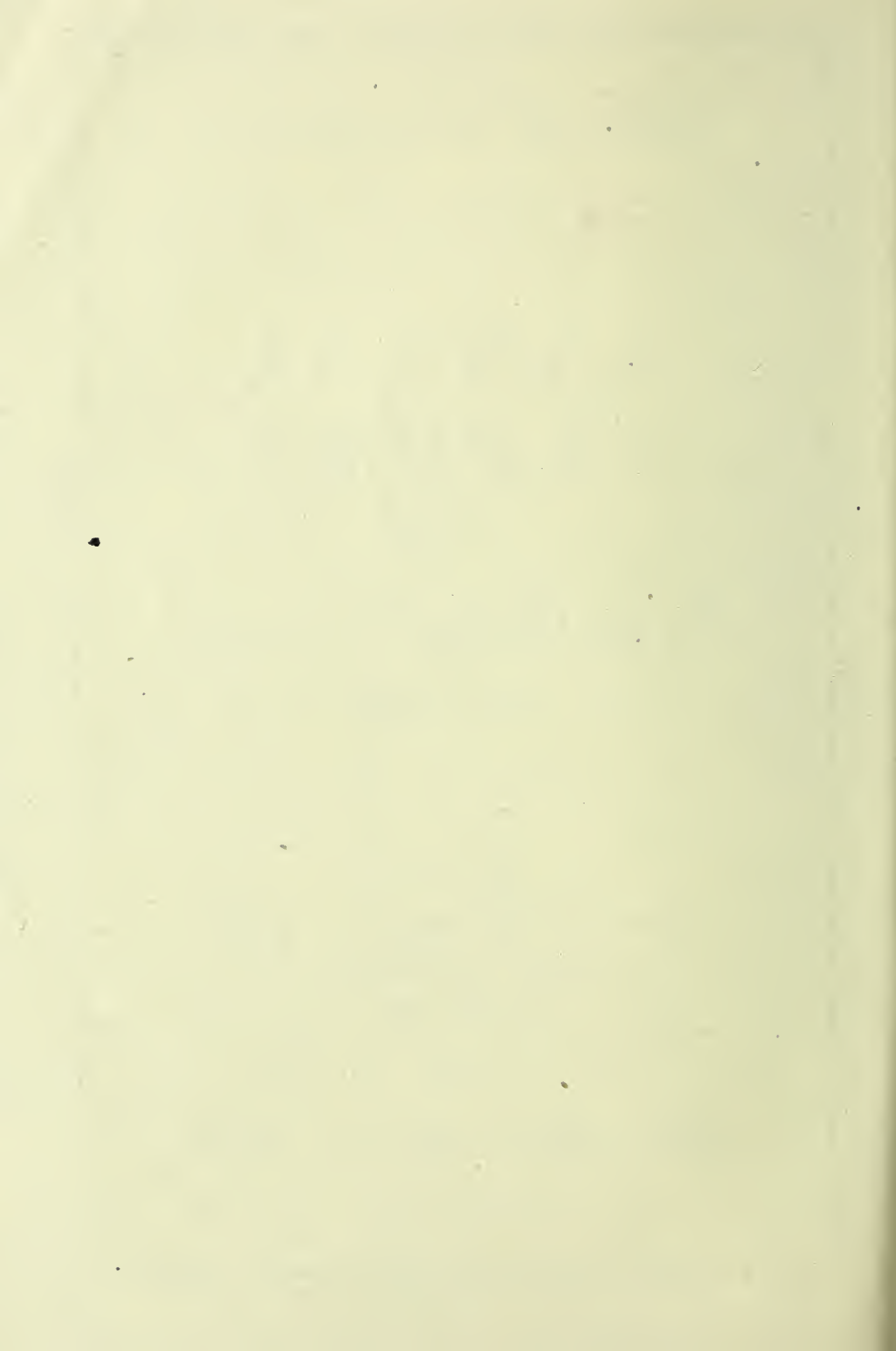
Medical Officer of Health


for the District

— and —

Wm. WATSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.





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BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT

1944

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1944	1943
Area (in acres)	6,674	6,674
Population (1931 Census) ...	8,346	
Registrar General's mid-year estimate of resident population	10,250	9,979
Number of inhabited houses in the Rate Books at the end of the year...	2,759	2,759
Rateable value	£29,683	£29,610
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£110.965	£109.135

Rainfall for the Years 1939—1944

These figures were kindly supplied by Mr. J. Lambert,
Secretary of the Biddulph Grange Orthopædic Hospital.

Month	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
January	5.38	3.19	1.68	3.45	5.24	4.69
February	2.57	2.54	3.57	1.87	2.10	1.67
March	2.23	2.50	2.99	2.07	.99	.55
April	1.99	2.15	2.07	1.59	1.22	2.56
May	1.77	2.05	2.90	4.52	2.94	1.66
June	2.04	1.80	.58	.84	3.16	3.68
July	5.83	4.68	3.52	4.19	1.67	3.23
August	1.90	1.33	4.19	2.30	4.46	4.02
September	1.12	3.02	.71	2.66	3.93	3.33
October	2.64	3.96	4.45	4.10	2.85	5.80
November	6.08	7.47	3.24	.85	2.91	5.79
December	2.05	3.60	1.43	3.51	1.80	3.27
Totals ..	35.60	38.29	31.33	31.95	33.27	40.19ins.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The pressure of the past five war years continues persistently to be reflected in the social structure of our community life. Problems increase in complexity and urgency. Two of these are housing and sewerage. With the operation of the Housing Acts largely in abeyance only essential problems can be dealt with by the Local Authority under the Public Health Acts and these only with increasing difficulty. No one can be in any doubt that too long delay has been shown in completing plans for an immediate post-war sewerage scheme of some permanency, to be linked with the housing programme. It is well-known that the local facilities for sewage disposal have for too long been insufficient even for our present requirements. Many centrally situated premises still rely on an out-of-date privy system and the risk of delay in perfecting sewerage plans to run *pari passu* with the local authority's housing plans is bound seriously to slow down the speed of any ambitious housing programme. Unless the sewerage scheme planned by the local authority is sanctioned by the Ministry, and so far representations to them have borne little fruit, the burden of primitive disposal will still be with us even when housing is no longer a contemplation of the future.

The work of an industrial district such as this reflects the health and social standards of the worker. Regular employment with a steady income; a diet, measured by peacetime standards, equal in quality though not perhaps in quantity, and a fair distribution of food have maintained the community health at a level far higher than we had a right to expect after five years of war. Coal mining is the staple industry; other sources of employment are engineering, sand quarrying, ribbon manufacture and the provision of public services. Outside the district, Royal Ordnance Factories employ the bulk of the remainder of the male and female population. The munitions industry is essentially temporary but there is little doubt that it has provided an experience of factory life and a knowledge of industrial processes from which the permanent industries may benefit. The provision of canteens, the medical supervision of industrial workers at their place of employment and the importance of relating working hours to sex, age and state of health are contributions which may reduce sickness rates as well as staleness and fatigue in post-war industry.

Dust diseases of the chest, viz.: Silicosis and Pneumoconiosis affect the pottery worker more than the coal miner but with the introduction in 1943 of The Coal Mining Industry (Pneumoconiosis) Compensation Scheme more miners now undergo medical examination for suspected industrial chest diseases than hitherto. Although only a small percentage receive compensation, the method of investigation permits a proportion to leave the industry often at a stage when their capacity for work is not impaired or only slightly impaired. A measure of this kind will surely in time discover an increasing number of early cases and prevent the ultimate development of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, which is the most fatal complication of estab-

lished and advanced silicosis. It is for these early cases that some scheme of rehabilitation and training might be evolved because the majority of miners in the district are indigenous, coming from a long line of colliers. They do not always adapt themselves easily to other forms of employment. Industrial disablement, with its attendant economic distress, necessitates some planning whereby they can secure a form of employment least harmful to their health and not be thrown haphazard on the labour market as has so often happened in the past.

The menace of V Weapons on London and the Home Counties during July and August brought the first real influx of official evacuees into the district under the Government's Evacuation Scheme. 12 mothers with 35 children arrived on 12th July; by August 1st 145 persons were officially billeted and on August 17th the tempo increased to a pitch when on that day a party of 122 mothers with 219 children and 64 unaccompanied children were successfully housed. By August 30th, 575 persons had been billeted in Biddulph. It was not an easy task and the prodigious efforts made by the Chief Billeting Officer and his staff, by the Rest Centres' Staffs and Voluntary helpers and by the individual householder cannot be sufficiently admired. It is noteworthy that the inevitable overcrowding on such large scale reception brought no epidemic disease. Employment was maintained at a high level throughout the year, which ended with a hopeful spirit that this would be the last full year of war in Europe.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

					Live Births			Still Births		
					M		F	M		F
Total...					93	95		Total...	5	5
Legitimate...					87	93		Legitimate...	5	4
Illegitimate..					6	2		Illegitimate..	—	1
Total Live Births					...	...	...	...	188	
Total Still Births					...	...	...	...	10	
										1943
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population					...	18.34	...	...	20.94	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population..					0.97	...	...	...	0.91	
					M.		F.			
Total Deaths...					...	...	97	51	46	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year					11	6	5			
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population					...	9.42	...	...	10.32	
Infantile Mortality Rate					...	...	...	...	58	28

VITAL STATISTICS.—Form S.D. 30

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES—1944

	Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	51	46
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Measles	1	—
Whooping Cough	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	4
Others Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
Syphilis	—	—
Cancer—malignant disease	10	5
Heart Disease	10	11
Other Circulatory diseases	1	—
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions.....	5	9
Diabetes	1	—
Bronchitis	—	2
Pneumonia—all forms	5	1
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	3	—
Premature Birth and diseases of early infancy	2	3
Violence—Suicide	4	—
Accidents (including Road Traffic)	1	2
All other causes	3	5

INFANTILE MORTALITY—Deaths under 1 year of age

No.	Sex	Age	Causes of Death	Date of Death
1	F	8 hours	Premature Debility	2nd Jan.
2	F	10 months	Broncho-Pneumonia	3rd Mar.
3	M	5 months	Broncho-Pneumonia	2nd April
4	M	5 months	Broncho-Pneumonia	28th April
5	M	7 months	Broncho-Pneumonia Whooping Cough	23rd May
6	M	3 months	Infantile Convulsions Broncho-Pneumonia	5th June
7	F	15 hours	Premature Debility	26th June
8	M	1 day	Intra Cranial Hæmorrhage Birth Trauma	8th July
9	M	2 days	Intestinal Obstruction Artesia of Ieum	16th Oct.
10	F	10 hours	Premature Debility	19th Oct.
11	F	1 day	Prematurity	30th Dec.

Broncho-pneumonia is still a very serious disease in infants and carries with it a high mortality. About one half of the deaths was due to this cause.

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality in the Year 1944

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION								RATES PER 1,000 BIRTHS	
	Live Births	Still- births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Smallpox	Measles	Deaths under 1 year of age	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age
England and Wales	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.01	46	4.8
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	—	0.01	52	7.3
148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent population 25,000 —50,000 at 1931 Census)	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	—	0.01	44	4.4
London Administrative County	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	—	0.00	61	10.1
Biddulph Urban District.	18.34	0.97	9.42	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.10	58	0.00

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

- 1.—John Ferguson, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer of Health (part-time).
- 2.—William Watson, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector (full-time).

2. Ambulance, Laboratory, Nursing and Maternity Facilities show no alterations from preceding years and Hospitals undertake the same responsibilities, but some interference with waiting list admissions to the Stoke-on-Trent hospitals was inevitable owing to the necessity of receiving convoys of wounded following D-Day. It is to the credit of the hospitals that no civilian emergencies were refused admission.

3. Mortuary

One post-mortem examination was held at the Council Mortuary during the year.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supplies

The shortage of water continued throughout the year and conditions were aggravated by the increase in the number of consumers—troops and evacuees.

The position deteriorated to such an extent that, in June, July and August it was found necessary to cart water to the higher parts of the district.

In October, the Springs at Biddulph Park began to show an increased yield and despite continued heavy consumption it was found possible to discontinue the intermittent supply and give a constant supply to all parts of the area after 1st November.

Whilst the increased yield can be attributed largely to rainfall, it should be borne in mind that in October the electrical pumping plant at Nettlebeds was installed whereby the maximum yield from the Well could be utilised. The plant consists of a horizontal pumping unit driven by an electric motor and is entirely automatic. It is capable of pumping 3,000 gallons per hour to the Biddulph Moor Reservoir.

It is intended to adjust the area of distribution from Biddulph Moor Reservoir, so that the consumption can be met from Nettlebeds Well. With this end in view, the chlorinating plant at Elmhurst used for chlorinating the supply to Biddulph Moor has been transferred to Nettlebeds so that the whole of the supplies to the district is being chlorinated.

Analyses of the water from Nettlebeds continue to show that it has a solvent and erosive action on lead. The hardening plant which is to be installed early in 1945 will, it is hoped, be effective in counteracting this plumbo-solvency.

Samples of water were taken during the year from public supplies of which 24 were for bacteriological examination and 23 for chemical examination. In addition, 4 samples were taken from private supplies.

Quality.—The results of bacteriological examinations of samples of water taken at source show evidence of contamination but samples taken from the piped supply show that chlorination has been effective.

Quantity.—The yield from various sources of the Council's supply is tabulated below. It is hoped that the Ministry of Health will give early sanction to the application for loan to sink the bore-hole at Elmhurst as recommended by the Council's Consulting Geologist, Professor Edgar Morton, in his report dated July, 1942.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BIDDULPH
Bacteriological and Chemical Examination of Water, 1944

Biddulph Park Distribution Area

Raw Supply				Piped Supply after Chlorination		
Date	Source	Bacteriological	Chemical	Sampling Point	Bacteriological	Chemical
25/1/44	North Side Spring, Biddulph Park Reservoir	Count (1) 17 colonies per ml. Count (2) 104 " " " Coli Aerogenes content 13 per 100 ml. (Intermediate Type II)	Satisfactory	Pumping Station Elmhurst	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
	East Side Spring, Biddulph Park Reservoir	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	48, Newpool Rd.	do.	do.
27/6/44				Pumping Station, Elmhurst	do.	do.
				Council Offices	do.	do.
29/8/44	North Side Spring, Biddulph Park Reservoir	Count (1) 22 colonies per ml. Count (2) 72 " " " Coli Aerogenes Content 25 per 100 ml. (Intermediate type II)	Satisfactory	Council Offices	do.	do.
	East Side Spring, Biddulph Park Reservoir	Count (1) 37 Colonies per ml. Count (2) 66 " " " (Intermediate Type II)				
17/10/44				Pumping Station Elmhurst	do.	do.
				Council Offices	do.	do.
19/12/44	North Side Spring, Biddulph Park Reservoir	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Tap in Elmhurst Pumping Station	do.	do.
	East Side, Spring, Biddulph Park Reservoir	do.	do.			

Whitemoor Supply

27/4/44				Whitemoor Cottages	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
17/10/4				Whit-moor Cottages	do.	do.

Biddulph Moor Distribution Area

Raw Supply				Piped Supply after Chlorination		
Date	Source	Bacteriological	Chemical	Sampling Point	Bacteriological	Chemical
25/1/44	Elmhurst Well	No samples of raw water were taken from this source.		Elmhurst Farm	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
27/4/44				New Road, Biddulph Moor	do.	do.
29/8/44				Mill Cottage Pool Fold	do.	do.

Nettlebeds Well Distribution Area

(Until October supply was by syphon, after October pumped to Biddulph Moor system)

Raw Supply				Piped Supply after Chlorination		
Date	Source	Bacteriological	Chemical	Sampling Point	Bacteriological	Chemical
27/4/44	Nettlebeds Well	Satisfactory	Satisfactory Injurious metallic Contamination—nil.			
27/6/44				Oxhey Drive	Satisfactory	12 p.p.m. lead dissolved in 24 hours. 2.4 p.p.m lead eroded in 24 hours. Injurious metallic Contamination—nil.
29/8/44				Oxhey Drive	do.	0.40 p.p. 100,000 lead in solution after 24 hours. 0.19 p.p. 100,000 lead eroded after 24 hours. Injurious metallic Contamination—nil.
17/10/44				Oxhey Drive	do.	0.4 p.p. 100,000 lead in solution after 24 hours. 0.11 p.p. 100,000 lead eroded after 24 hours. Injurious metallic contamination—nil.
19/12/44				Nettlebeds Pump House		Metallic Contamination 0.025 p.p. 100,000 Iron.

MONTHLY YIELD OF WATER SUPPLIES AT SOURCE (24 hours)

	Biddulph Park Springs	Elmhurst	Nettlebeds
1944	Actual	Actual	Estimated
31st Jan.	103,000 gals.	136,000 gals.	20,000 gals.
28th Feb.	93,000 „	136,000 „	20,000 „
31st Mar.	93,000 „	136,000 „	20,000 „
30th April	93,000 „	136,000 „	20,000 „
31st May	93,000 „	136,000 „	20,000 „
30th June	66,500 „	136,000 „	20,000 „
31st July	66,000 „	136,000 „	20,000 „
31st Aug.	61,000 „	136,000 „	20,000 „
30th Sept.	75,000 „	144,000 „	20,000 „
31st Oct.	75,000 „	144,000 „	36,000 „
30th Nov.	97,000 „	168,000 „	36,000 „
31st Dec.	97,000 „	168,000 „	36,000 „

Approximately 93·5 per cent. of the houses in the district have a piped supply direct to the premises. There are 2,759 inhabited houses in the district and 169 are without a piped supply. These are situated in the rural part of the area and principally in that part of the parish of Horton which was transferred to Biddulph in 1934.

Sewers and Sewerage

There has been no change in conditions. The provision of a complete sewerage scheme is still one of the major needs of the district. Much of the area is without a proper sewerage system and the existing disposal plant is badly overloaded. The Ministry of Health's approval to schemes already submitted is still anxiously awaited.

Rivers and Streams

The operations of a sand quarrying firm caused serious pollution of Biddulph Brook by sand washings. Extended negotiations by the Council in conjunction with the legal advisers to the farmer immediately affected have resulted in effective action being taken by the company and there has been no further pollution of the stream.

Closet Accommodation	1944	1943
Approved Water Closets	1496	1486
Waste Water Closets	1	1
Privies	51	55
Privy Pails	1195	1201
Pails converted to Water Closets	10	4
Privies converted	—	—
Privies converted to Pail Closets	4	1

It will be seen that 10 privy pails were converted to w.c.s and 4 privies were converted to pail closets.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No changes have been made in the methods of collection and disposal of house refuse and night soil, the whole of the work being carried out by direct labour with the Council's staff.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of the principal work undertaken under the various Public Health and Housing Acts during the year. 82 Complaints were received and dealt with during the year. 79 Preliminary and 3 Statutory notices were served.

Record of Nuisances Abated and Work carried out

The following table summarises some of the major sanitary matters dealt with.

Drains cleansed and unstopped	24
Drains relaid or partly relaid	8
Water closets—defects remedied	5
New sinks fixed	—
Sink waste pipes defective	4
Privy Pails converted to W.C.'s	10
Privies converted to pails	4
Dustbins provided	67
Foul Accumulations	5
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	3
Yard Paving repaired or renewed	2
Dampness, Roofs, Eaves Gutters, R.W.P's	28
General Housing Repairs	37

46 Dwelling houses were visited at the request of owners or builders, and housing repairs were certified so that the necessary materials could be obtained.

	First Inspection	Re- Inspection
Dwelling Houses under the Public Health Acts ...	37	82
Water Supply	24	—
Schools	7	—
Refuse Accommodation	65	43
Yards and Courts	2	5
Drains tested	4	—
Urinals and Public Conveniences	9	—
Cowsheds	23	—
Dairies	23	6
Shops: re meat and other foods	—	29
Food Preparing Premises	14	—
Bakehouses	16	—
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	14	26
Verminous Premises	—	—
Infectious Diseases	25	4
Disinfections	25	—
Scabies	71	15
Public Cleansing and Salvage	203	—
Interviews with owners and tradesmen	63	—
Miscellaneous Visits	93	—

Tents, Vans and Sheds

Three Licences were issued for moveable dwellings, satisfactory arrangements having been made for water supply and sanitary arrangements. Two of the dwellings moved from the district before the end of the year.

Rats and Mice Destruction

During the year the Staffordshire County Council delegated its powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919 to this Council. Two of the Council's workmen were given instruction in Rodent Control and act as rodent operatives in a part-time capacity.

Shops Acts, 1912—1938

The Staffordshire County Council has delegated its powers under the Shops Acts, 1912—1938 (with certain reservations as to hours of closing) to this Authority. The Council has a Shops' Inspector (part-time) appointed specially for this work.

Verminous Premises and Persons

No verminous premises or persons were found during the year.

SECTION D—Housing

Number of houses erected..... Nil

Notices for housing repairs have been served under the Public Health Act, and the summary of housing statistics has been amended accordingly.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses

- (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects... 37
- (b) Number of inspections for the purpose 82

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices

Number of dwelling houses where defects were remedied ... 41

3. Action under Statutory Powers ... 1

SECTION E

—Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply

Four new dairies and one cowshed have been constructed during the year. A good deal of structural work remains to be done to bring the majority of the milk producing premises up to a standard which can be considered satisfactory. The shortage of water and, in some cases, the absence of a satisfactory water supply is bound to be reflected in the early souring of milk, since milk cannot be cooled and vessels cleansed without an adequate wholesome supply of water.

Meat and Other Foods

The Government's scheme of centralised slaughtering is still in operation and all meat is subject to inspection in the City of Stoke-on-Trent before being brought into the district. Where pigs are slaughtered, a portion being for sale for human consumption, the carcasses are inspected before being sent to the shops. This is made easier by the co-operation of the local Food Executive Officer who notifies the Health Department of all licences issued for the slaughter of pigs. Various articles of food were surrendered during the year and certificates given in order that the retailer could obtain replacements.

A letter of warning was sent by the Clerk in one case where a shop selling general groceries was found to be dirty.

SECTION F

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

It is gratifying to report that, apart from an epidemic of Measles in the final quarter of the year and the continued treatment of Scabies, for which latter the local authority is responsible for initial action, there has been no abnormal prevalence of infectious disease during the year. The isolation hospital admitted 28 cases, of which 20 were Scarlet Fever, 3 Cerebro-Spinal Fever and 5 notified as Diphtheria. No cases were refused admission on account of lack of accommodation.

25 disinfections were carried out.

The following statistics relate to the notifiable infectious diseases among the civilian population for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

There were 76 notifications of infectious disease received under the 1918 Regulations, a decrease of 22 compared with 1943. Included in these were 11 cases of Tuberculosis, 6 of which were Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary. 288 cases of Measles and 70 of Whooping Cough were notified under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations 1939.

Scarlet Fever declined during the year with a case incidence of 20 compared with 42 cases in 1943 and 33 in 1942. All the cases occurred among children, the oldest being 13 years. 9 of the cases were among pre-school children. The cases were distributed throughout the district and occurred sporadically during the year. There was one death in hospital from Scarlatina Maligna. All the cases were admitted to hospital and there was one return case. Immediate disinfection was carried out in the home and routine precautionary instructions were issued to householders. No doubt these, and prompt notification and early removal to hospital contributed to the low incidence of what is still a serious disease, demanding adequate isolation and skilled nursing. The mildness of the initial infection is

not always a guarantee of the absence of complications. It is from these that the menace to health and even to life arises.

Measles showed no unusual incidence until the beginning of October. In the first 9 months only 18 cases were notified. A further 270 cases occurred among pre-school and school children during the last 3 months. A remarkable feature of this epidemic was that it affected all parts of the district except Biddulph Moor, where only one case was notified and that in October, the brunt of the outbreak being borne by the Central area of Biddulph with 161 cases. The peak was reached in the week ending 16th December when 64 cases were notified. The epidemic was not of a severe type and in only a few cases were complications met with. There was one death in a child age $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, 36 hours after admission to hospital.

Whooping Cough.—Of the 70 notifications received, 11 occurred in children under one year of age and in this age group there was one death. The remaining cases were at 5 years and under. Half the total cases were during the months of May and June.

Four cases of **Dysentery** of the Sonne type were notified in March, 2 occurring in members of the same family. No doubt other diarrhoeal diseases were of this dysenteric type, though only 4 were confirmed by bacteriological examinations of excreta. The figures compare favourably with the incidence of this disease in England and Wales during the year.

Diphtheria.—Five cases of diphtheria were notified during the year at ages 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $17\frac{1}{2}$, 21 and 22. None of the cases had previously been immunised. All were admitted to hospital without prior throat swabbing or the administration of antitoxin. Except in the case of the girl age $1\frac{1}{2}$ who had positive confirmed diphtheria all the cases proved negative. Only one case therefore occurred during the year and that in a non-immunised child. 22 swabs from the throat and nose were submitted for examination at the County Bacteriological Laboratory and none was found to be positive to Diphtheria. Attention has been drawn to the likelihood of a higher incidence rate, consequent on immunisation of children, in the adolescent and adult population and no doubt the notification and admission of three adult suspected cases is proof of the awareness of this. There are no figures for carriers or susceptibles available, for routine throat swabbing and Schick testing are not practised in this district so we have no proof of the presence or absence of these causes of spread. It has been thought more expedient to concentrate on the year to year immunisation of the appropriate age groups without preliminary or subsequent skin tests and the scheme seems to be working tolerably well. The results obtained after 5 years are due to the excellent co-operation of local doctors, the county medical service, health visitors and parents. Some concern has been expressed at the low percentage of pre-school children immunised and to increase this a system of birthday cards has been devised as a pleasant and timely reminder to the parents of one year old children of their obligations in the matter of giving

their children protection against a serious and often fatal disease. Coercion in any sphere produces the poorest results! It is hoped that this addition to the extant propaganda will produce better results in the ensuing years. The relevant statistics for the present year appear below.

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Return for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1944:

	Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over, but under 15	Total
1. Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st Jan., 1944 and 31st Dec., 1944.	106	21	127

	Under 5 years	Between 5 and 15 years
2. (a) Approximate estimated number of children in the area at 31st Dec., 1944. (b) Percentage of the child population shown under (a) considered immunised at 31/12/44. (This estimate includes as far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere).	900 48%	1,500 86.1%

3. Number of cases of Diphtheria (a) of children under 15 years of age notified between 1st Jan. and 31st Dec., 1944. (b) Number of cases included in (a) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease. (c) Number of deaths of children under 15 years of age. (d) Number of deaths in children known to have completed course of immunisation.	2 0 0 0
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Tuberculosis.—11 new cases were notified, an increase of 2 compared with 1943. Of these 6 were Pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary, the comparable figures for the preceding year being 4 Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary. Six deaths occurred during the year, 5 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one Non-Pulmonary. There were 49 cases on the Tuberculosis register at the end of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1944

Age Periods			New Cases 11				Deaths 6			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
5-15	...	...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
15-25	...	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	...	...	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
35-45	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
65 & upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals			4	3	—	4	2	3	—	1

Scabies.—This is perhaps one of the few contagious diseases in which new methods of prevention and control have merited the work spent on them for they have been justified if only by the confidence the public has placed in them. The success of the scheme has been measured by the good results obtained. In the past three years it has been proved clinically effective, attractive to the public and has, in practically all cases, prevented further infection. During 1944, 67 sessions were held at which 71 families comprising 314 persons received 562 treatments. It has not been found necessary to disinfest bedding to prevent relapse or reinfection. Some statistics of schoolchildren and evacuees treated are appended:—

SCHOOLS				EVACUEES			
Biddulph Central	...	...	43	Adults	...	...	5
„ North	...	...	2	Children	...	...	13
„ Moor	...	...	8				
Knypersley	...	...	15				
Mow Cop	...	...	5				
Brindley Ford	..	...	13				
Brown Edge	...	...	2				
Sandbach	...	...	1				
			—				—
			89				18
			—				—

Notifiable Diseases during the Year, 1944

Disease	Cases Notified		Admitted to Hospital	
	1944	1943	1944	1943
Scarlet Fever	20	42	20	33
Diphtheria	5	2	5	2
Pneumonia	26	34	—	—
Measles	288	13	1	—
Whooping Cough	70	40	—	—
Tuberculosis—				
Pulmonary.....6 }	11	9	—	—
Non-Pulmonary ...5 }				
Erysipelas	6	8	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	—	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Group ..	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	—	2

Analysis of Total Notified Cases under Age Groups (Exclusive of Tuberculosis)

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Measles		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F					
Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	8	5	3	6	3	...	...	1	...
1 ...	2	...	1	1	11	10	8	6	2	...	...	...	...
2 ...	...	...	...	...	22	25	7	5	1	...	...	...	...
3 ...	...	4	...	...	19	19	1	6	1	...	...	...	...
4 ...	1	2	...	...	13	16	5	7	...	...	...	...	1
5 ...	2	6	...	...	76	61	6	10	5	...	...	...	1
10 ...	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
15 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
20 ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...
35 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	...	2
45 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	1	...	...
65 & on ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals...	6	14	1	4	151	137	30	40	26	6	3	1	4

County Bacteriological Laboratory, Stafford

Report on Specimens sent from Biddulph

1944	No. of Swabs Throat and Nose	Coryne- Bacterium Diphtheriae	No. C. Diphtheriae	Streptococcus Haemolyticus	Staphylococcus
January	2	...	2	1	...
February	3	...	3	1	...
March	1	...	1	1	...
April	2	...	2	...	...
May	1	...	1	...	...
June	3	...	3	...	...
July	3	...	3	...	...
August	2	...	2	...	...
September	1	...	1	...	...
October	1	...	1	...	...
November	1	...	1	1	...
December	2	...	2	...	...
Totals...	22	...	22	4	...

SPUTUM—32 Specimens: 2 positive, 30 negative.

BLOOD—2 Specimens: 2 negative.

UNDESIGNATED MILK—No samples tested.

ANTHRAX—1 Report: 1 negative.

FÆCES—15 Specimens: 4 positive Sonne Dysentery, 11 negative.

School Notifications of Actual and Suspected Illness and Contacts 1944

School	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	German Measles	Whooping Cough	Varicella	Mumps
Biddulph Central, Boys ...	...	...	2	...	...	6	...
„ „ Girls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ Infants...	...	...	30	...	1	26	1
Knypersley, Mixed ...	...	...	1	4	...	...	2
„ Infants ...	...	...	5	...	9	...	11
Biddulph Moor, Mixed ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ Infants ...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...
Biddulph, North, Mixed ...	1	...	4	1	1	16	1
„ „ Infants ...	3	...	3	1	1	26	...
Totals...	11	...	47	6	12	74	15

I am obliged to the Head Teachers of the various schools for the promptitude with which I am apprised of cases of actual and suspected infectious diseases, especially of those cases which are not officially notifiable, viz.: chicken-pox, mumps, etc.

Biddulph Maternity and Child Welfare Centre

(Staffordshire County Council—Health Visiting Committee)

1944

Attendance at Infant Welfare Centre

(Thursday, 1.30 p.m.—4 p.m.)

Children under 1 year	1287
Children 1 to 5 years	1239
	<hr/>
	2526
	<hr/>

Number of Children examined by Doctor	1169
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Health Visiting

Visits to Expectant Mothers.....	100
Visits to Children under 1 year.....	795
Visits to Children 1 to 5 years.....	1456
	<hr/>
	2351
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Ante-Natal Clinic (alternate Tuesdays 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.)

Attendance for first time	40
Total Attendance	120

NURSE TURNER
NURSE WHITAKER

